

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY C-HSONNENFELDT:LGR

APPROVED BY C - HELMUT SONNENFELDT

S/S - A. OTTO

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P 110057Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224864

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XA, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA ON AFRICA.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. COUNSELOR CALLED IN VORONTSOV AND ON SECRETARY'S INSTRUCTION TOLD HIM THAT FLOOD OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA ATTACKING OUR ROLE IN AFRICA WAS IRRESPONSIBLE AND INFLAMMATORY. VORONTSOV COMPLAINED ABOUT LACK OF CONSULTATIONS AND CLAIMED THAT WE EXAGGERATE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA OUTPUT IN AFRICA. COUNSELOR TOLD HIM SOVIETS MUST OBVIOUSLY KNOW WE WERE ENGAGED IN DELICATE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS IN A HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE SITUATION AND THEREFORE ANY ACTIONS ON THEIR PART TO INCITE HATRED OR QUESTION OUR PURPOSES WAS IRRESPONSIBLE. COUNSELOR URGED SOVIETS TO GET THEIR OUTPUT TONED DOWN AND TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. VORONTSOV SAID HE WOULD REPORT OUR REQUEST TO MOSCOW.

2. COUNSELOR ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO TELL VORONTSOV THAT PNG AGAINST BREMENT WAS WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED AND REPRESENTED
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SERIOUS ACT AGAINST OUR EMBASSY. COUNSELOR SAID WE CANNOT

ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF RETALIATION AND WARNED OF DANGER OF
CHAIN REACTION THAT COULD ONLY IMPEDE BOTH EMBASSIES'
PROPER FUNCTIONING. COUNSELOR ASKED SOVIETS TO RECONSIDER
THEIR UNWARRANTED ACTION. VORONTSOV SAID HE WOULD REPORT
BUT SOVIETS THEMSELVES CONSIDERED ACTION AGAINST STEPANOV
UNWARRANTED. HE ASKED IF WE COULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION ABOUT STEPANOV'S ACTIVITIES. COUNSELOR SAID
HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. KISSINGER

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